(c) whether it is being proposed to scrap the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) The matter is being enquired.

(c) No, Sir.

National Maternity Benefit Scheme in Maharashtra

914. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) how many women have so far been benefited from the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) in Maharashtra after the implementation of the scheme; district-wise; and

(b) what action Government have taken or propose to take to extend NMBS in the entire rural Maharashtra within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Sugarcane Price

915. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the State-wise sugarcane price advised by various State Governments during 1995-96 season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN) : As per the latest information available, the State Government of Bihar has announced Rs. 71 per quintal as State Advised Sugarcane Price for 1995-96 Season. Similarly, the range of State Advised Sugarcane Price announced by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is Rs. 70 to Rs. 74 per quintal.

Proposal to Transfer Mahabodhi Temple to Neo-Buddhists

916. SHRI K.R. MALKANI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the National Minorities Commission has recommended the transfer of Mahabodhi temple, Bodhgaya to Neo-Buddhists, countrary to the tradition of ages (vide Pioneer, 12.2.96);

(b) whether Buddhists, old or new, are not, in law and in fact part of Hindu society; and

(c) whether a subject like this falls within the jurisdiction of NMC?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c) Buddhists have been notified as a minority community for the purpose of National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. Under Section 9(1) (c) of this Act the National Commission for Minorities has made recommendation to the Central Government for enactment of a suitable and appropriate legislation to vest the management of the Bodhgaya temple exclusively in the Buddhists community.

Cost escalation of Assam Gas Cracker Project

917. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of Assam Gas Cracker Project has since escalated;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have since made necessary provision therefor;

(d) what is the date upto which such delaying issues are to be sorted out to enable the project activities to start; and

(e) what steps Government like to take in the event of the said project becoming unviable because of delays and cost escalation etc.?

THE MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The cost of the Assam Gas cracker project is now estimated to be around Rs. 3400 crores.

(c) Appropriate funding scheme for implementing the project is required to be made by the project authorities.

(d) and (e) The project of 2 lakh TPA ethylene capacity with a central capital subsidy of Rs. 377 crores and provision of gas at concessional price of Rs. 600 per thousand standard cubic meters for a priod of fifteen years

was found to be economically viable keeping in view the special difficulties involved in setting up such a project in Assam. The proejct is required to be implemented by the project authorities as per the schedule drawn up by them.

Assam Gas Cracker Project

918. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the site activities of the proposed Assam Gas Cracker Project could not be taken up as yet because of non-receipt of essential clearance from the Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the economic size and capacity of a standard Gas Cracker Project as per LOI;

(d) whether the LOI capacity satisfy the minimum economic size; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Action to acquire land for the project by the Project authorities, is in progress. No statutory clearances in respect of this project are pending with the Ministry.

(c) to (e) The project of 2 lakh TPA ethylene capacity with one time Central capital subsidy of Rs. 377 crores and a provision of gas at concessional price of Rs. 600 per thousand standard cubic meters for a period of fifteen years has been found to be economically viable keeping in view the special difficulties involved in setting up such a project in Assam. But in other parts of the country, where such concessions are not available, minimum economic size of Cracker Project is 3 to 4 lakh TPA of ethylene.

Establishment of subsidiaries

919. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 100% subsidiaries have been allowed to be established without giving manufacturing programme of the bulk drug;

(b) whether joint ventures have also been allowed without establishing any basic drug manufacturing programme;

(c) the names of such subsidiaries and joint ventures and the details of the establishment of basic drug manufacturing of each;

(d) whether this is against the paragraph of 22.4-1 and 22.4-2 of the New Drug Policy, 1994; and

(e) if so, the reasons for granting permission without establishing the basic drug manufacturing and the actiojn being taken to review all these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (e) All proposals received in regard to foreign investment related to manufacturing of Drugs and Formulations, whether as 100% subsidiaries or as joint ventures, have been considered in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph 22.4 of "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" announced in September, 1994.

Exchange of Land by Bhumidhars

920. DR. RANBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether permission to exchange land by bhumidhars under Section 40 of the Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954 has been given by Government of Delhi;

(b) if so, the names of those persons, villages, areas, date of order, Khasra numbers;

(c) the reasons for not according similar permission to exchange land in other cases and the number and details of such cases pending with Government of Delhi; and

(d) the names of the persons who have so far been declared bhumidhars under Section 74(4) of the D.L.R. Act, 1954 giving Khasra numbers, area, village and the names of the present owners of the land for which they have been declared bhumidhars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) (a) to (d) This